

REMARKS

Claims 1-36 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 7, 16, 17, 20, 21, 29, 30, and 36 have been amended, and claims 3-5, 13-15, 19, and 33 have been canceled in this reply. No new claims have been added. Claims 1, 2, 6-12, 16-18, 20-32, and 34-36 therefore will be pending upon entry of the above amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 6-12, and 29-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 6,325,664 ("Someda"). Claims 3, 13, 14, and 32 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Someda in view U.S. patent no. 5,897,386 ("Baxter"). Claims 4, 5, 15-28, and 32-35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Someda in view U.S. patent no. 6,457,993 ("Espenshade"). Claim 36 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Someda in view of Baxter and Espenshade. Claims 3-5, 13-15, 19, and 33 have been canceled, thereby rendering these rejections moot with respect to those claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims, as amended herein, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 6, 29, and 36 of the present application has been amended to recite at least one of: (i) a lip formed on the bottom wall along an edge of the pocket for retaining the LED assembly within the pocket, the lip deflecting in response to insertion of the LED assembly from the bottom wall; (ii) a crush rib formed on a first inner wall of the pocket for urging the LED assembly toward an opposing second inner wall of the pocket to form an interference fit between the pocket and the LED assembly so that the LED assembly is suspended in the pocket by way of the interference fit; and (iii) a metallic shield surrounding the jack body, the shield comprising a front face and a tab portion, wherein the front face has apertures formed

therein for exposing LEDs of the LED assembly, and the tab portion covers the opening in the bottom wall and thereby retains the LED assembly in the pocket.

Someda is silent regarding a “lip” as recited in claim 1 of the present application. The Examiner has characterized the tabs (222) of the modular jack (1) of Espenshade as a “lip” as recited in claim 1. Office action at pg. 5, line 17. Applicants respectfully note that tabs (222) do not deflect in response to insertion of the LEDs (40) into the receiving slots (221) from the bottom wall (22) of the modular jack (1). In fact, the tabs (222) prevent the LEDs (40) from being inserted into the receiving slots (221) from the bottom wall (22). Moreover, the tabs (222) are not formed along an edge of the receiving slots (221). *See e.g.*, Figure 3 of Espenshade.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the Someda and Espenshade neither teach nor suggest a lip formed on a bottom wall along an edge of a pocket for retaining an LED assembly within the pocket, the lip deflecting in response to insertion of the LED assembly from the bottom wall. (Baxter likewise is silent regarding this limitation.)

Someda is silent regarding crush ribs. The connector housing (30) of Baxter includes gripper arms (56) having crush ribs (62) formed thereon. The crush ribs (62) form an interference fit that causes contact pads (50) on the connector housing (30) to engage solder pads (28) provided on one side of a printed circuit board assembly (PCBA) (12). The PCBA (12) is not suspended in a pocket of the connector housing (30) by the interference fit. Baxter spec. at col. 4, lines 33-49. *See also* Figures 1-7 of Baxter.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Someda and Baxter neither teach nor suggest a crush rib formed on a first inner wall of a pocket for urging an LED assembly toward an opposing second inner wall of the pocket to form an interference fit between the

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pocket and the LED assembly so that the LED assembly is suspended in the pocket by way of the interference fit. (Espensshade likewise is silent regarding this limitation.)

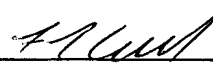
Someda is silent regarding a metallic shield surrounding a jack body. The shield (5) of Espensshade does not have a tab portion that covers an opening in the bottom wall (22) of the housing (2) and thereby retains the LED (4) assembly in the slot (221) of the housing (2). See Figures 3 and 5 of Espensshade.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Someda and Espensshade neither teach nor suggest a metallic shield surrounding a jack body, the shield comprising a tab portion, wherein the tab portion covers an opening in a bottom wall and thereby retains the LED assembly in the pocket. (Baxter likewise is silent regarding this limitation.)

In conclusion, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentably distinct from Someda, Espensshade, and Baxter, either alone or in combination, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Withdrawal of the rejections of the pending claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a) is respectfully requested.

A Notice of Allowability is respectfully requested in this case.

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